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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/327,351	06/05/1999	STANISLAV I. IONOV	PD-970411	5316

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EXAMINER

PHAN, HANH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2633

DATE MAILED: 08/13/2003

12

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

2

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/327,351

Applicant(s)

IONOV ET AL.

Examiner

Hanh Phan

Art Unit

2633

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 June 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is responsive to the Amendment filed on 05/19/2003.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 6, 15, 16 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- Claim 6 recites the limitation "the group consisting of a Fabry-Perot filter, a wavelength division multiplexer, and a fiber grating-based optical switch" in lines 2-4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

- Claim 15 recites the limitation "said reconfigurable optical transmitter" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

- Claim 16 recites the limitation "said reconfigurable optical transmitter" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

- Claim 27 recites the limitation "the group consisting of a Fabry-Perot filter, a wavelength division multiplexer, and a fiber grating-based optical switch" in lines 2-4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-26, and 28-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lenormand et al (US Patent No. 6,545,787).

Regarding claims 1, 22, 30 and 31, referring to Figures 1-6, Lenormand discloses a satellite constellation comprising:

a plurality of satellites (Figs. 1-3, 5 and 6), each of said satellites having an RF ground link for communicating with a ground station (74, 74)(Figs. 5 and 6) and an optical link for communication with at least one of the plurality of satellites (col. 5, lines 4-67 and col. 6, lines 1-14);

each of said satellites having a reconfigurable optical transmitter and a reconfigurable optical receiver for sending and receiving data streams, each reconfigurable optical transmitter having an optical carrier associated therewith (Figs. 5 and 6);

said plurality of satellites arranged to have a first subset of satellites, said first subset of satellites configured to communicate therebetween (col. 1, lines 55-67 and col. 2, lines 1-35) ;

said plurality of satellites arranged to have a second subset of satellites having at least one satellite different than that of the first subset and at least one second satellite the same as the first subset, said second subset of satellites are configured to communicate therebetween (col. 2, lines 15-35 and col. 3, lines 27-59).

Regarding claims 2, 12, and 23, Lenormand further teaches each of the plurality of satellites comprises a communications table (i.e., routing unit 88)(Fig. 6).

Regarding claims 3, 13, 24 and 32, Lenormand further teaches the communications table has plurality of routes for communicating between satellites in the first subset (Fig. 6, col. 5, lines 25-67 and col. 6, lines 1-14).

Regarding claims 4, 5, 15, 16, 25 and 26, Lenormand also teaches that the reconfigurable optical transmitter comprises an array of laser diodes (92)(Fig. 6).

Regarding claims 7 and 8, Lenormand further teaches the satellites are in low earth orbit (col. 1, lines 9-20 and col. 2, lines 58-65).

Regarding claim 9, Lenormand further teaches the first and second subsets are aligned with a landmass (Figs. 1-6).

Regarding claims 11, 18, 28 and 29, referring to Figures 1-6, Lenormand discloses a global communications system comprising:

- a plurality of satellites spaced about the earth (Figs. 1-6);

- a first subset of said plurality of satellites (Figs. 1-6) forming a local area network over a landmass, said first subset of satellites having a first plurality of optical carriers assigned thereto for intercommunication (Figs. 5 and 6, col. 5, lines 4-67 and col. 6, lines 1-14);

said first subset having a second plurality of optical carriers assigned for communicating with other satellites outside of the subset (Figs. 4 and 5, col. 4, lines 22-67 and col. 5, lines 1-67 and col. 6, lines 1-14).

Regarding claim 14, Lenormand further teaches each of the satellites comprises a reconfigurable optical transmitter and a reconfigurable optical receiver (Figs. 1-6).

Regarding claims 17 and 21, referring to figures 1-6, Lenormand discloses a method of communicating within a satellite communications system comprising the steps of:

deploying a plurality of satellites (Figs. 1-6);

grouping a first subset of the plurality of satellites into a first local area network, said first subset having fewer than the plurality of satellites (Figs. 5 and 6, col. 5, lines 4-67 and col. 6, lines 1-14);

forming a plurality of routes between the satellites in the first local area network (Figs 5 and 6); and

assigning an optical carrier for each route (Figs. 5 and 6).

Regarding claims 19 and 20, Lenormand further discloses wherein the step of assigning an optical carrier comprises the step of obtaining the optical carrier and route from a respective optical wavelength selector and communication table and the step of assigning comprises the step of reusing the optical carriers (Figs. 5 and 6, col. 5, lines 4-67 and col. 6, lines 1-14);

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 6, 10 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lenormand et al (US Patent No. 6,545,787).

Regarding claims 6 and 27, it would have been obvious to obtain the reconfigurable optical receiver is one from the group consisting of a Fabry-Perot filter, a wavelength division multiplexer, and a fiber grating based optical switch in order to select and distribute the signals to the user terminals.

Regarding claim 10, Lenormand differs from claim 10 in that he does not specifically teach the subset comprises seven satellites using three optical carriers. However, it would have been obvious to obtain the subset comprises seven satellites using three optical carriers in order to allow to allocate transmission capacity in the satellite data communication network and reduce the interference between the signals.

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-32 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

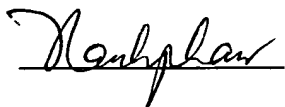
Art Unit: 2633

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh Phan whose telephone number is (703)306-5840.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan, can be reached on (703)305-4729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-4700.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Hanh Phan', is written over a horizontal line.

Hanh Phan

08/06/2003